

# Sedalia Weekly Conservator.

VOL. 1.

SEDALIA, MISSOURI, SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1903.

NO. 16



A. W. LLOYD, OF ST. LOUIS, GRAND CHANCELLOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI.

## Nineteenth Annual Session K. of P. Lodge of Missouri.

Convened in Moberly, Mo.,  
Wednesday, Aug. 9.

The Grand Lodge of Missouri was called to order yesterday morning by A. W. Lloyd, G. C. The Grand Court of Calanthe or Pythian sisters met with the Grand Lodge in open session. Mayor Dingle was to have delivered the welcome address, but being unable to attend in person, was duly represented by Mr. F. G. Ferris, who extended a cordial welcome to the Grand Lodge delegate in very fitting and friendly remarks, assuring the visitors that they were perfectly welcome to the hospitalities of the good people of Moberly. He commended the race for the marked progress which it has made during the past quarter of a century of freedom. The address was responded to by Prof. D. E. Gordon, of St. Louis in a very appropriate speech.

Addresses were made by several delegates—ladies and gentlemen—Miss Arsan Williams, a delegate from St. Louis, made the address of the morning in her greetings from the "Sisters."

Music was furnished by a Pythian Quartette from Paris. The G. C. appointed committee on credentials and returns, and the time of meeting, after which the Grand Lodge adjourned until 7 o'clock p. m. at which time the formal opening took place.

There are about 125 delegates and visitors in attendance, among whom are the leading educators and professional men and women of the race in Missouri. The grand lodge will be in session three days.

### Night Session.

The night session yesterday opened formally at 7 o'clock with a full delegation from the various subordinate lodges thru out the state. All the grand officers are present ex-

cept G. M. at A. and G. I. G. whose places were filled by the G. C. After formal ceremonies at opening the Grand Lodge degree was conferred on forty-one candidates by P. G. C., B. J. Caruthers. The Grand Lodge was then called from labor to ease until 9 o'clock this morning.

### To-day's Session.

Promptly at 9 o'clock the Grand Lodge was called from ease to labor by A. W. Lloyd, G. C. Journal of first day's proceedings read and approved. The grand lodge took up routine business. Committee on Credentials reported at the night session seating one hundred delegates and Grand Lodge officers.

The first business of the morning session was the reception of annual addresses and Grand Lodge officers' reports. G. C. Lloyd read his annual message, which was an able, scholarly and comprehensive document; it was received and referred to the proper committee.

Next followed the reports of G. K. R. and S. and G. M. of Ex., showing total receipts for the year to be \$1,486.80; disbursements \$370.70; balance in hands of G. M. of Ex. \$1,106.10. The secretary-treasurer of endowment has received to date between \$6,000 and \$7,000, with a balance on hands of \$5,000.

The report of the Grand Lecturer was a very instructive and interesting one and showed the subordinate lodges in excellent condition, the majority of them having good bank accounts and many of them owning their own halls.

The report of committee on Foreign Correspondence by the chairman, B. J. Caruthers, showed that the colored Knights of Pythias is permanently founded in nearly every state in the union, S. A., Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and the Hawaiian Islands and is destined to lead all other organizations among the race. Missouri has had an increase of 10,000 members this year. The Grand Lodge of the ladies

department of the order is also in session here. The election of Grand officers will take place Thursday. Several of the present officers will be allowed to succeed themselves.

—Moberly Democrat.

## Roosevelt Strongly Denounces lynching.

In a Letter to Gov. Durbin of Indiana  
the President Commends the  
action taken against the recent out-  
break of lawlessness.

OYSTER BAY, N. Y., Aug. 9.—In a letter, the publication of which was authorized to-day, President Roosevelt commends Gov. Durbin of Indiana for the attitude he assumed recently respecting lynching. The President also embraces the opportunity and mob violence generally, pointing out that mob violence is merely one form of anarchy, and that anarchy is the forerunner of tyranny. The President vigorously urges that the penalty for crimes that induce a resort to lynching shall be applied swiftly and surely, but by due process of the courts, so that it may be demonstrated "that the law is adequate to deal with crime by freeing it from every vestige of technicality and delay."

President Roosevelt's letter in full to Gov. Durbin follows:

"Oyster Bay, N. Y., Aug. 6, '03.

My Dear Governor Durbin: Permit me to thank you as an American citizen for the admirable way in which you have vindicated the majesty of the law by your recent action in reference to lynchings. I feel, my dear sir, that you have made all men your debtors, who believe, as all far-seeing men must, that the well-being, indeed the very existence of the republic depends upon the that spirit of orderly liberty under the law, which incompatible with mob violence as with any form of despotism. Of course,

mob violence is simply one form of anarchy, and anarchy as is now, as it has always have been, the handmaiden and forerunner of tyranny.

### Reflect honor on State.

"I feel that you have not only reflected honor upon the state, which for its good fortune, has you as its chief executive, but upon the whole nation. It is incumbent upon every man thruout this country not only to hold up your hands in the course you have been following, but to show his realization that the matter is one of vital concern to us all.

"Although men must feel the gravest alarm over the growth of lynching in this country, and especially over the peculiarly hideous forms so often taken by mob violence in which colored men are the victims, on which occasions the mob seems to lay most weight, not on the crime, but on the color of the criminal. In a certain proportion of these cases the lynched has been guilty of a crime beyond description—a crime so horrible that as far as he himself is concerned he has forfeited the right to any kind of sympathy whatever. The feeling of all good citizens that such a hideous crime shall not be hideously punished by mob violence is due not in the least to sympathy for the criminal, but to the very lively sense of the train of dreadful consequences which follow the course taken by the mob, exacting inhuman vengeance for an inhuman wrong. In such cases, moreover, it is well to remember that the criminal not merely sins against the humanity in an inexpiable and unpardonable fashion, but sins particularly against his own race, and does them a wrong far greater than any white man can do them.

### Colored People Particularly Concerned.

"Therefore, in such cases, the colored people thruout the land should, in every possible way, show their belief that they, more than all others in the community, are horrified at the commission of such a crime, and are peculiarly concerned in taking every possible measure to prevent its recurrence and to bring the criminal to immediate justice. The slightest lack of vigor, either in denunciation of the crime, or in bringing the criminal to justice is itself unpardonable.

"Moreover, every effort should be made, under the law, to expedite the proceedings of justice in the case of such an awful crime. But it cannot be necessary in order to accomplish this to deprive any citizen of those fundamental rights which are so dear to us all, and which lie at the root of our liberty. It certainly ought to be possible by the proper administration of the laws, to secure swift vengeance upon the criminal; and the best and immediate efforts of all legislators, judges and citizens should be addressed to securing such forms in our legal procedure as to leave no vestige of excuse for those misguided men who undertake to reap vengeance thru violent methods.

"Men who have been guilty of a crime like rape or murder, should be visited with swift and certain punishment, and the just effort made by the courts to protect them in their rights should under no circumstances be perverted into putting any mere technicality to avert or thwart their punishment. The substantial rights of a prisoner to a fair trial must, of course, be gauran-

teed, as you have so justly insisted that they should be; but, subject to this guarantee, the law must work swiftly and surely, and all the agents of the law should realize the wrong they do when they permit justice to be delayed or thwarted for technical or insufficient reasons. We must show that the law is adequate to deal with crime by freeing it from every vestige of technicality and delay.

### Innocent Parties Suffer.

"But the fullest recognition of the horror of the crime, and the most complete lack of sympathy with the criminal, can not in the least diminish our horror at the way in which it has become customary to avenge these crimes, and at the consequence that are already proceeding therefrom. It is, of course inevitable that where vengeance is taken by a mob it should frequently light on innocent people; and the wrong done in such a case to the individual is one for which there is no remedy. But even where the real criminal is reached, the wrong done by the mob itself is well-nigh as great. Especially is this true where the lynching is accompanied with torture. There are certain hideous sights, which, when once seen, can never be wholly erased from the mental retina. The mere fact of having seen them implies degradation. This is a thousandfold stronger when, instead of merely seeing the deed, the man has participated in it. Whoever in any part of our country which has taken part in lawlessly putting to death a criminal by the dreadful torture of fire, the participant must forever after have the awful spectacle of his own hand work seared into his brain and soul. He can never again be the same man.

### Torture a Precedent that Spreads.

"This matter of lynching would be a terrible thing, even if it stopped with the lynching of men guilty of the inhuman and hideous crime of rape; but, as a matter of fact, lawlessness of this type never does stop, and never can stop, in such a fashion. Every violent man in the community is encouraged by every case of lynching in which the lynchers go unpunished to take the law into his own hands whenever it suits his convenience. In the same way, the use of torture by the mob in certain cases is sure to spread until it is applied more or less indiscriminately in other cases. The spirit of lawlessness grows with what it feeds on, and when mobs with impunity lynch criminals for one cause, they are certain to begin to lynch real or alleged criminals for other causes.

"In the recent cases of lynching, over three-fourths were not for rape at all, but for murder, attempted murder, and even less heinous offenses.

### Can Not Condone Illegal Offenses.

"Moreover, the history of these recent cases shows the awful fact that when the minds of men are habituated to the use of torture by lawless mobs to avenge crimes of a peculiarly revolting description, other lawless bodies will torture in order to punish crimes of any ordinary type.

"Surely, no patriot can fail to see the fearful brutalization and debasement which the indulgence of such a spirit and such practices inevitably portend. Surely, all public men (Continued on page 4.)